

---

## Indigenous Expenditure Report Project Update January 2010

The Australian, State and Territory Government Treasuries are currently finalising the collection of expenditure data for the first Indigenous Expenditure Report to be completed in mid-2010.

This is the second in a series of Information Bulletins designed to inform you about the Report's development and explains how the Report contributes to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Indigenous reform agenda.

### *COAG strategic areas of activity*

In 2008, COAG committed to six strategic targets aimed at 'Closing-the-Gap' between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians:

- closing the life expectancy gap within a generation
- halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years
- halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade
- halving the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020, and
- halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

To achieve these targets, governments have agreed to focus their efforts on seven strategic areas of activity:

- early child development
- education and training
- healthy lives
- economic participation
- home environment
- safe and supportive communities, and
- governance and leadership.

### *Linking the Indigenous Expenditure Report with the COAG strategic areas of activity*

The framework for the Indigenous Expenditure Report aligns — at a high level — with the seven COAG strategic areas of activity.

An initial mapping of the strategic areas of activity and the Indigenous Expenditure Report expenditure categories is provided in table 1. This mapping will be further refined during the report drafting process.

It is important to note that total expenditure can not always be identified for each COAG area of activity. This is because the focus of the areas of activity is on outcomes, not on specific policy actions or services that are the basis of expenditure. For example, a government grant to a youth centre could include services attributable to both the 'healthy lives' and the 'safe and supportive communities' outcome areas.

Table 1 **Initial mapping of the COAG strategic areas of activity and the Indigenous Expenditure Report expenditure**

<i>Strategic action area</i>	<i>Strategic change indicators</i>		<i>Expenditure categories</i>
<b>Early child development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic skills for life and learning</li> <li>• Injury and preventable disease</li> <li>• Maternal age at first birth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood hospitalisations</li> <li>• Birth weight</li> <li>• Maternal health</li> <li>• Hearing impediments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare</li> <li>• Preschool</li> </ul>
<b>Education and training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School enrolment and attendance</li> <li>• Years 10 and 12 retention</li> <li>• Year 9 attainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition from school to work</li> <li>• Teacher quality</li> <li>• Indigenous cultural studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School education</li> <li>• Vocational Education and Training</li> <li>• Higher education</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy lives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to primary health</li> <li>• Potentially preventable hospitalisations</li> <li>• Avoidable mortality</li> <li>• Obesity and nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tobacco consumption and harm</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Tooth decay</li> <li>• Suicide and self-harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital services</li> <li>• Community health services</li> <li>• Public health services</li> <li>• Pharmaceuticals, medical aids and appliances</li> <li>• Health administration and research</li> </ul>
<b>Economic participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour market participation</li> <li>• Income support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous owned or controlled land and business</li> <li>• Home ownership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour and employment services</li> <li>• Social security support</li> </ul>
<b>Home environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding in housing</li> <li>• Rates of disease associated with poor environmental health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to clean water and functional sewerage and electricity services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing services</li> <li>• Municipal services</li> <li>• Transport and communication services</li> </ul>
<b>Safe and supportive communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug and other substance use and harm</li> <li>• Repeat offending</li> <li>• Alcohol consumption and harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to traditional lands</li> <li>• Juvenile diversions</li> <li>• Participation in organised sport, arts or community group activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public order and safety</li> <li>• Community support and welfare</li> <li>• Community development</li> <li>• Recreation and culture</li> </ul>
<b>Governance and leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies in governance</li> <li>• Governance capacity and skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with service delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance and leadership</li> </ul>

*Benefits from linking the expenditure with the COAG strategic areas of activity*

Notwithstanding the limitations outlined above, linking expenditure to outcomes at a high level can draw attention to areas where more detailed investigation should be undertaken, but is not a replacement for detailed program evaluation. Detailed program evaluation will be undertaken through separate processes.

*Forthcoming information bulletins*

Forthcoming information bulletins in this series will explain the methodology used to determine Indigenous expenditure, Indigenous under-identification, cost differentials and provide a report outline. If you have any questions, would like to contribute views to the Indigenous Expenditure Report project, or want to join our Interested Parties List and receive these Information Bulletins, please contact the Secretariat ([gsp.ier@pc.gov.au](mailto:gsp.ier@pc.gov.au)) or visit our website ([www.pc.gov.au/ier](http://www.pc.gov.au/ier)).